

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: U.N.

SUBJECT: LA MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE OF 24

REF: A. USUN 5819

B. USUN 5652

C. USUN 5273

1. AS INDICATED IN REFTELS, CUBA IS ANXIOUS TO TAKE PLACE
ON COMMITTEE OF 24 OF VENEZUELA, WHICH WITHDRAWING. U.S.
SHARES CONCERN OF LAS AND OTHER U.N. MEMBERS, AS REFLECTED
IN REFTELS, ABOUT POSSIBLE CUBAN PRESENCE ON THE COMMITTEE.
TO AVOID SUCH DEVELOPMENT ANOTHER LA CANDIDACY IS
ESSENTIAL.

2. FYI. U.S., OF COURSE, HAS SPECIAL INTEREST IN AVOIDING
CUBAN MEMBERSHIP ON THE COMMITTEE BECAUSE CUBA WOULD UN-
DOUBTEDLY USE ITS MEMBERSHIP THE BETTER TO PUSH COMMITTEE
CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO, WHICH WE AND PUERTO RICO DO
NOT CONSIDER A PROPER SUBJECT FOR COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION
SINCE THE U.N. RECOGNIZED PUERTO RICO AS SELF-GOVERNING
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IN 1953. THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF SPECIAL US INTEREST

SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, OVERSHADOW THE CONCERN OF OTHER U.N. MEMBERS AS REFLECTED IN REFTELS. END FYI.

3. WE BELIEVE COLOMBIA WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT CANDIDATE BECAUSE IT COULD BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A SOUND APPROACH TO COLONIAL MATTERS IN COMMITTEE OF 24 AND BECAUSE OF THE RESPECT AND ESTEEM WITH WHICH IT IS REGARDED BY U.N. MEMBERSHIP. IT HAS GAINED SOME EXPERIENCE IN DECOLONIZATION MATTERS THROUGH SERVICE ON COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA.

4. REQUEST YOU SEEK APPOINTMENT SOONEST WITH APPROPRIATELY HIGH FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND SAY THAT U.S. SHARES CONCERN OF OTHER U.N. MEMBERS RE CUBAN ASPIRATION FOR COMMITTEE OF 24 MEMBERSHIP, AND DRAWING ON FOREGOING, URGE THAT COLOMBIA BECOME A CANDIDATE FOR MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE OF 24. IF COLOMBIA WILLING TO TAKE THIS ON, ITS DELEGATION IN NEW YORK SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO SEEK ENDORSEMENT OF LA GROUP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE WOULD, OF COURSE, BE READY TO SUPPORT COLOMBIA'S CANDIDACY IN ANY WAY THEY DEEM APPROPRIATE, ALTHOUGH WE RECOGNIZE THAT IT MIGHT BE TACTICALLY BETTER IF WE STAYED IN BACKGROUND, IF FM OFFICIAL INDICATES COLOMBIA FAVORS EFFORTS TO PREVENT CUBAN MEMBERSHIP ON COMMITTEE AND IS UNWILLING ITSELF TO SERVE, YOU SHOULD ASK WHETHER HE CAN SUGGEST ANOTHER CANDIDATE AND WHETHER COLOMBIA WOULD BE WILLING TO ENCOURAGE ITS CANDIDACY.

5. TIMING OF COLOMBIA'S REQUEST FOR LA SUPPORT FOR SEAT ON COMMITTEE OF 24 IS IMPORTANT SINCE THE UNGA MAY ELECT NEW LA COMMITTEE MEMBER BEFORE THIS SESSION OF THE UNGA ENDS DECEMBER 17. (IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT ELECTION MIGHT TAKE PLACE SUBSEQUENT TO CLOSE OF GA BY CIRCULARIZING MEMBERS IF LA GROUP DO NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATE BY CLOSE OF GA.) WE UNDERSTAND FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE IN LIMA UNTIL ABOUT DECEMBER 11. IF FOREIGN MINISTRY INDICATES FOREIGN MINISTER MUST MAKE DECISION, YOU MAY SUGGEST THAT MINISTRY INFORM HIM IN LIMA OF OUR APPROACH.

6. DEPT HAS DISCUSSED ABOVE WITH AMBASSADOR VAKY WHO AGREES WITH APPROACH TO COLOMBIA. INGERSOLL
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